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MP unit returns home to Stewart-Hunter from OEF deployment

FORT STEWART, Ga. (May 12, 2008) – For one Soldier in the 546th Military Police Company, it was an extra special homecoming here today as he and about 130 of his comrades came home from a 15-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Spc. Joseph Paulk, accompanied by his family, was presented the Purple Heart and Army Commendation medals moments before he and his comrades marched onto Cottrell Field for the unit's welcome ceremony. Paulk was presented the medals for wounds he received in action in July 2007.

While in Afghanistan, the 546th MPs trained the Afghanistan National Police and assessed police stations there. The unit, part of the 385th Military Police Battalion here at Fort Stewart, was assigned to the Regional Command East area in Afghanistan and had platoons in several provinces there.

Lt. Col. Jacqueline Lett, rear detachment commander of the 3rd Infantry Division's Sustainment Brigade, greeted the returning Soldiers and said she was proud of their service during their deployment which was so long for them.

"I assure you to your country, your family readiness groups and your loved ones behind us, it seemed like an eternity," Lett said.

In addition to the main body, a small group of Soldiers assigned to the 546th MPs returned Saturday.

Following Lett's welcome and singing the national anthem, the Marne Song and the Army Song, the family members and friends rushed from the parade field's reviewing stands to greet their Soldiers.